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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

State Department review completed

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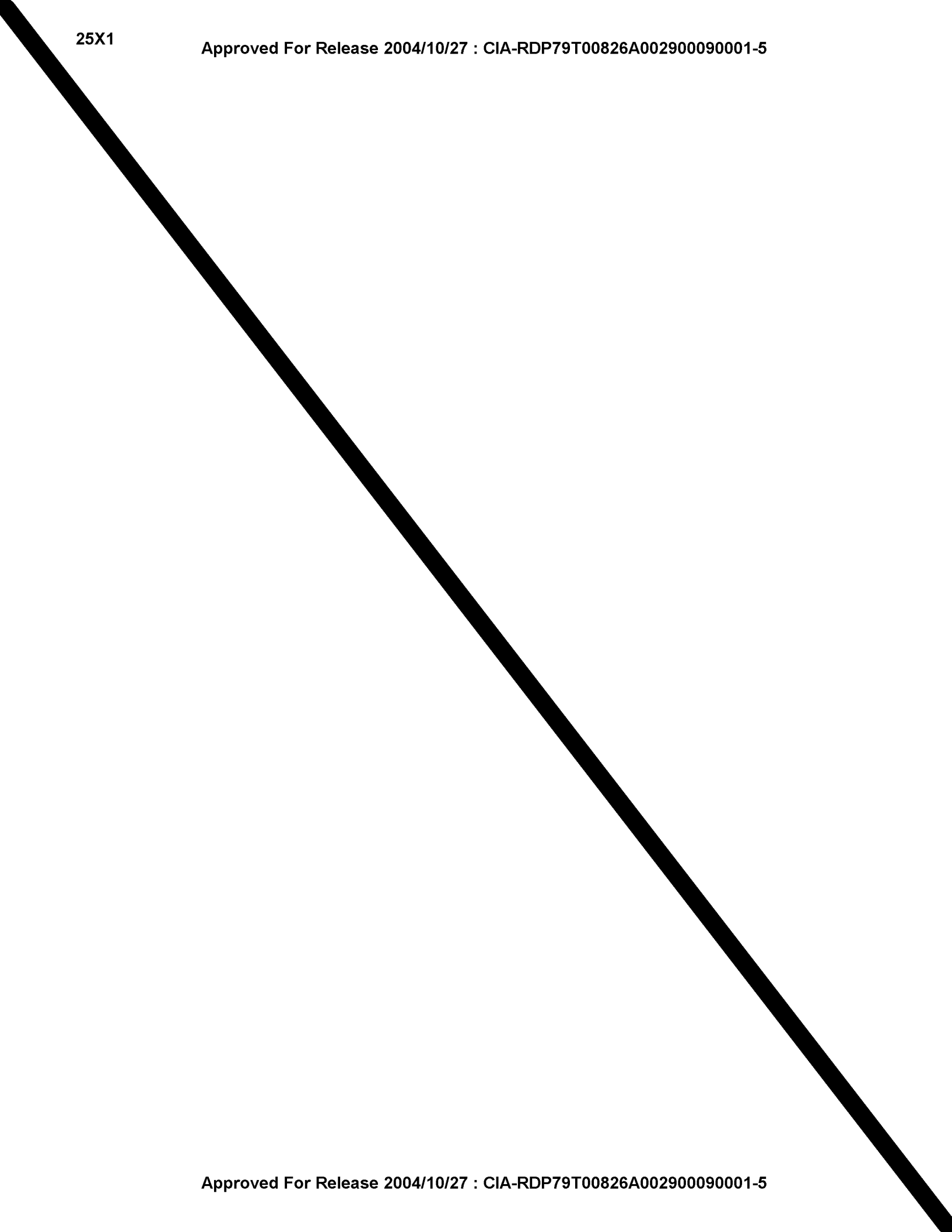

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Information as of 1600
8 November 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong has once again reaffirmed Hanoi's terms for talks with the US and a settlement of the war.

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I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Widespread fighting was reported on 7-8 November. The recent upsurge in enemy activity may signal the beginning of the Communists' "winter-spring" offensive (Paras. 1-8). The Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics (Charts) (Para. 9).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

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The Senate has approved almost all articles thus far presented by the rules committee, and some senators hope that work on rules can be completed within two weeks (Para. 5).

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IV. Other Communist Military Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

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V. Communist Political Developments: North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong has reaffirmed Hanoi's standard terms for a settlement of the war and for talks with the US (Paras. 1-2).

VI. Other Major Aspects: Prince Sihanouk has announced that three American prisoners held by the Viet Cong would probably be sent to Cambodia when released (Para. 1).

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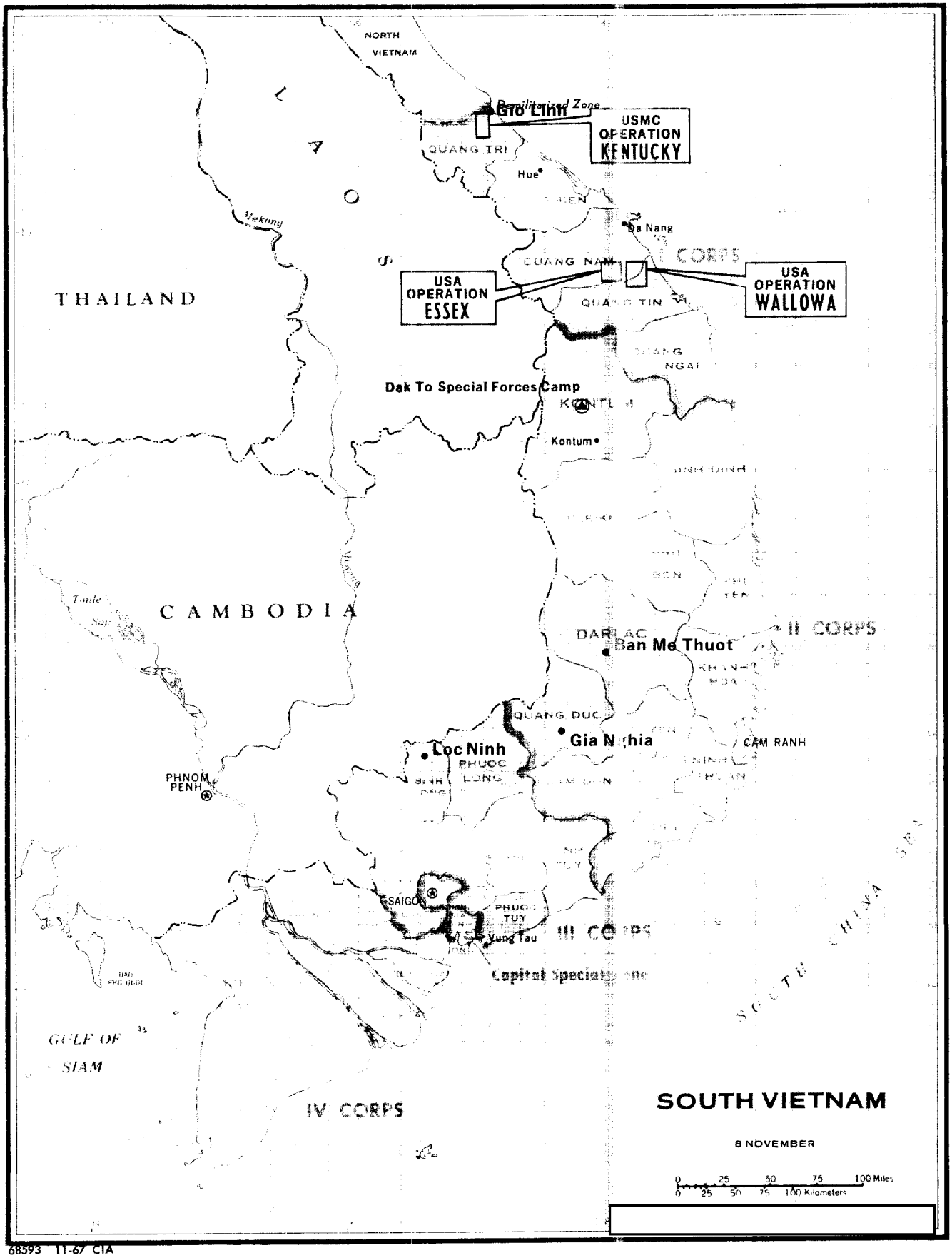

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I. MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. Heavy fighting was reported on 7 and 8 November in what may signal the beginning of the Communist "winter-spring" offensive.

2. Two days of intense activity in the highlands of Kontum Province near the Dak To Special Forces camp resulted in 116 enemy soldiers killed. Enemy losses also include 65 individual weapons, 15 crew-served weapons, and more than 300 hand grenades. American losses have been relatively light.

3. In southwestern II Corps, enemy forces hit two allied positions. An estimated 25 rounds of mortar fire were directed at the Ban Me Thuot East Airfield in central Darlac Province. The parking ramp and fuel storage area were hit, two helicopters were destroyed and six were damaged. Gia Nghia, the capital city of Quang Duc Province, was the target of an enemy mortar and ground attack early on 8 November. South Vietnamese defenders forced the attackers to withdraw after a 15-minute fight.

4. In an hour-long engagement with an enemy battalion on 7 November some six miles east of Loc Ninh, US forces killed 66 Communists while losing 18 killed and 20 wounded. The enemy force was probably a subordinate of the 272nd Regiment of the Viet Cong 9th Infantry Division which participated in the attacks last week. This unit may be moving eastward from Binh Long Province to regroup and possibly join other Communist forces for new offensives in Phuoc Long Province.

5. Another Communist arms cache has been located about 70 miles east of Saigon by a South Vietnamese battalion pursuing an enemy force. The cache, discovered in an enemy base camp in northern Phuoc Tuy Province, contained 33 individual weapons, 18 mortars, an assortment of ammunition, and a machine shop for weapons repair. The mortars seized are equivalent to the normal allotment for three Communist infantry battalions.

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6. US Army troops in Operation WALLOWA in the Quang Nam - Quang Tin Province border area reported killing 77 enemy in a series of engagements on 7-8 November. Since this five-battalion operation began on 14 October, 787 enemy soldiers have been killed compared with 57 Americans killed and 188 wounded.

7. Just to the west, US Marines in Operation ESSEX engaged enemy forces--tentatively identified as elements of the 3rd Regiment of the North Vietnamese 2nd Division--in actions which resulted in 36 enemy killed. This newly initiated operation is penetrating a series of ridges in which elements of the 2nd Division have recently withdrawn to avoid US forces in the coastal flatlands. There has been active enemy resistance since the operation began on 5 November.

8. In northernmost Quang Tri Province US Marines in Operation KENTUCKY killed 13 enemy soldiers during an encounter on 7 November just south of the Demilitarized Zone. Thirteen Americans were wounded in the action. Just east of Gio Linh, a South Vietnamese battalion discovered a series of six caves each containing 20 Communist 140-mm. rockets. A small quantity of mortar ammunition was also found.

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9. Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

The week of 29 Oct - 4 Nov compared with the week of 22-28 Oct:

I. Casualties

	VC/NVA		US	
	22-28 Oct	29 Oct-4 Nov	22-28 Oct	29 Oct-4 Nov
Killed	1,389	1,894	166	178
Wounded	--	--	966	793
Missing/ Captured	--	--	--	--
TOTALS	1,389	1,894	1,132	971

	GVN		FREE WORLD	
	22-28 Oct	29 Oct-4 Nov	22-28 Oct	29 Oct-4 Nov
Killed	210	160	60	10
Wounded	648	533	120	8
Missing/ Captured	21	60	0	0
TOTALS	879	753	180	18

II. Viet Cong Incidents

	22-28 Oct	29 Oct-4 Nov
Attacks	85	69
Battalion or Larger	1	3
Small Unit	84	66
Harassment	406	297
Terrorism	36	29
Sabotage	56	27
Propaganda	15	8
Antiaircraft	199	84
TOTALS	797	514

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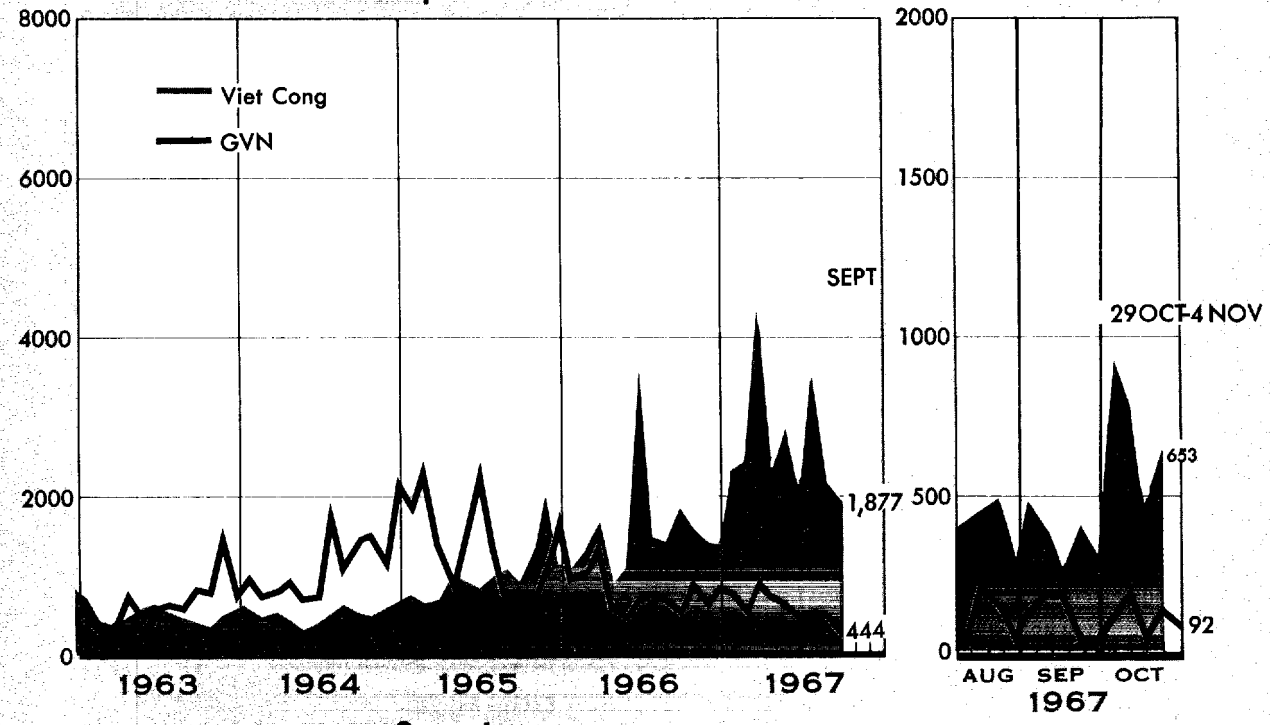
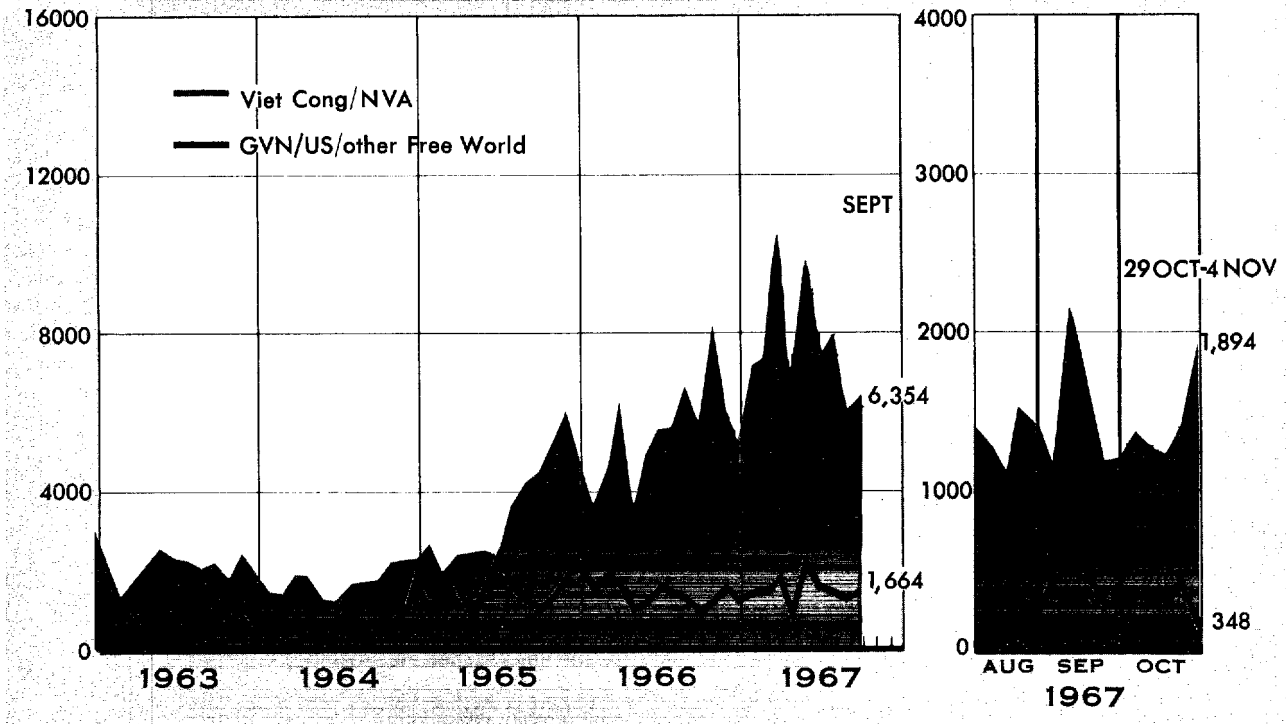
Weapons Losses



Casualties

*(Killed only)**



US Casualties to Date: Killed 14,557 Wounded 91,120 Captured 214 Missing 577

**Due to a change in the reporting of personnel losses, beginning 12 February 1967, the weekly and monthly figure will represent only personnel killed.*

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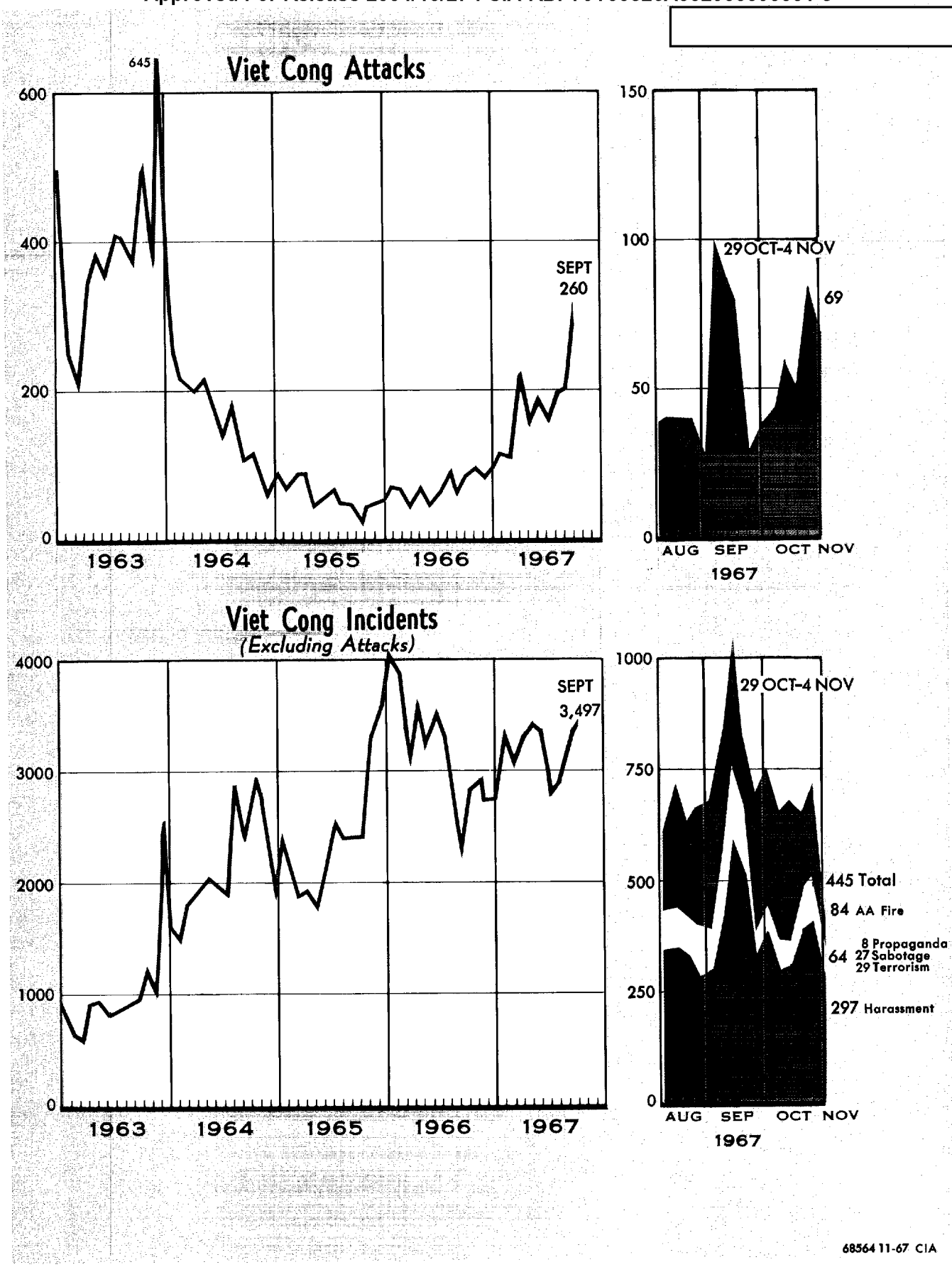

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III. Weapons Losses

	VC/NVA		GVN	
	22-28 Oct	29 Oct-4 Nov	22-28 Oct	29 Oct-4 Nov
Individual	559	Not	149	92
Crew-Served	94	Reported	2	0
TOTALS	653		151	92

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II. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

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Progress on Drawing up Senate Rules

5. During its session on 7 November, the Senate, with all 60 members present, approved 22 of 23 articles covering Senate organization presented by the rules committee and set up a working schedule for further plenary debate on the committee's draft rules. The article not approved dealt with powers to be vested in the Senate's officers. Debate on that question was deferred until a later session. Also remaining to be accomplished are the drafting and approving of parts two and three of the rules--Senate regulations and procedures. Some optimistic senators believe that work on all the rules, which may eventually have as many as 200 articles, can be completed within two weeks.

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IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. North Vietnamese Premier Pham Van Dong has reaffirmed Hanoi's standard terms for talks with the US and for a settlement. At a reception on 7 November honoring a visiting Soviet anniversary delegation, the premier told his audience that the basis for settling "the Vietnam problem is the four points of the North Vietnamese Government and the political program of the Liberation Front--the only genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people." He further declared that if the US wants talks with North Vietnam it "must act on the statement of 28 January of Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh." That statement said that conditions for talks were that the US halt unconditionally the bombings "and all other acts of war" against North Vietnam. Dong gave no indication that Hanoi now demands that such a bombing halt be "definitive," i.e., final or permanent, as did party First Secretary Le Duan in a speech before the Supreme Soviet on 3 November.

2. The premier also provided a similar statement on negotiations and a variety of other subjects to a British reporter. These were published on 8 November. Dong told the reporter that the North Vietnamese expect further escalation of the war and that they are ready to cope with it. He pointed to the forthcoming second session of the Bertrand Russell war crimes tribunal as an event of "great international importance" and claimed that it will throw more light on the "monstrous crimes of the US." Dong also went to some length in stressing the importance of the Liberation Front's new program and that organization's claim to be the "only true representative of the South Vietnamese people." Dong termed the present Saigon administration "Quislings" who are not taken seriously and asserted that the struggle against the Americans compels everyone to take a stand--either in favor of or against the US--"there is no third road."

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VI. OTHER MAJOR ASPECTS

American Prisoners May Be Released in Cambodia

1. Prince Sihanouk told a news conference on 8 November that the three American prisoners of war the Liberation Front says it is going to release would probably be sent through Cambodia. Sihanouk said he was awaiting a decision on the matter from the Front. He also stated that the Cambodians are always willing to act as intermediaries and that "we will take care of the prisoners and send them back to America." On a previous occasion the Front released captured Americans in Cambodia.

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